

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-16. (Cancelled)

17. (Original) A device for engaging tissue, comprising:

a generally annular-shaped body defining a plane and disposed about a central axis extending substantially normal to the plane, the body being movable from a substantially planar configuration lying generally in the plane towards a transverse configuration extending out of the plane, the body comprising a plurality of looped elements extending about a periphery of the body;

a plurality of tines extending from the looped elements towards the central axis in the planar configuration, and generally parallel to the central axis in the transverse configuration, the tines comprising tips having a predetermined spacing from one another in a relaxed state; and

a spring element disposed between adjacent tines between the looped elements and tips of the tines, the spring element resiliently allowing the tips of the tines to be moved away from one another.

18. (Original) The device of claim 17, wherein the spring element is biased to move the tips of the tines towards the relaxed state.

19. (Original) The device of claim 17, wherein the looped elements comprise a series of outer curved regions connected to one another, thereby defining an endless pattern extending about the periphery of the body in the planar configuration, the tines extending from connection regions of adjacent curved regions.

20. (Original) A device for engaging tissue, comprising:

a generally annular-shaped body defining a plane and disposed about a central axis extending substantially normal to the plane, the body being movable from a substantially planar configuration lying generally in the plane towards a transverse configuration extending out of the plane, the body comprising a plurality of curved elements defining an outer periphery of the body; and

a plurality of arcuate tines extending from the curved elements towards the central axis in the planar configuration, and generally parallel to the central axis in the transverse configuration.

21. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 20, wherein the arcuate tines are in phase with one another such that ~~the~~ they spiral about the central axis in the planar configuration.

22. (Original) The device of claim 21, wherein the arcuate tines have an arcuate length that is greater than a radius of the body.

23-35 (Cancelled)

36. (Previously Presented) A device for engaging tissue, comprising:
a generally annular-shaped body defining a plane and disposed about a central axis extending substantially normal to the plane, the body being movable from a substantially planar configuration lying generally in the plane towards a transverse configuration extending out of the plane, the body comprising a plurality of curved elements defining an outer periphery of the body;

a plurality of arcuate tines extending from the curved elements towards the central axis in the planar configuration, and generally parallel to the central axis in the transverse configuration; and

a spring element disposed between adjacent tines, the spring element resiliently allowing the tips of the tines to be moved away from one another.